



NEWS RELEASE

Anniston Chemical Activity



December 24, 2008

For More Information Contact:

Michael B. Abrams

Office: (256) 238-1652, Ext. 235

Cell: (256) 453-3840

James Pinkney, Jr.

Office: (256) 235-7942

Cell: (256) 453-3843

Terry Sholin

Office: (256) 238-0721, Ext. 137

Cell: (256) 310-2143

ANCDF COMPLETES LAST NERVE AGENT MUNITION DISPOSAL CAMPAIGN

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, Ala. (December 24, 2008) - "It's official. The last VX-filled land mine that had been stored here has been safely demilitarized," said Timothy K. Garrett, site project manager at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF).

"We have reached a truly remarkable milestone following more than five years of deliberate but careful operations. All nerve agent munitions - those containing GB and those containing VX - have been safely processed," continued Garrett.

Since disposal operations at the ANCDF began in August 2003, employees have safely demilitarized 54 percent of the chemical munitions stored here for 47 years.

"The incredible work done by the ANCDF has allowed the Chemical Activity employees to empty 99 storage igloos. This means that, although safely stored for years, the risk to the community has been reduced substantially with all nerve agent munitions gone from storage," said Lt. Col. Andrew M. Herbst, commander, Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA).

All together, 361,802 munitions and 293,003 gallons of nerve agent have been processed at the ANCDF. Making up the total were 219,374 VX-filled munitions and 142,428 GB-filled munitions. The other chemical munitions stored here - mustard-filled projectiles, mortars, and large containers - will be demilitarized in the near future. First, an extensive change over and maintenance phase will allow workers to prepare equipment and themselves for the final disposal campaign here.

(More)

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Westinghouse Anniston Project Manager Robert C. Love said, "I'm proud of the job our workers have done - safely destroying all of the nerve agent-filled munitions is quite an accomplishment. Now, we move on to the mustard-filled munitions and we will work hard to safely destroy them as well."

Anniston nerve agent munition end dates are:

VX -

- *December 24, 2008:* Last VX Land Mine (44,131)
- *May 24, 2008:* Last VX 155mm Projectile (139,581)
- *March 8, 2007:* Last VX Rocket (started July 23, 2006) (35,662)

GB -

- *March 2, 2006:* Last GB 105mm Projectile (74,040)
- *July 17, 2005:* Last GB 8-inch Projectile (16,026)
- *June 1, 2005:* Last GB 155mm Projectile (9,600)
- *October 29, 2004:* Last GB Rocket (started August 9, 2003) (42,762)

Other notable milestones are:

- *December 24, 2008:* All nerve agent munitions safely demilitarized
- *September 27, 2008:* ANCDF reaches 50 percent munition disposal milestone
- *August 9, 2003:* ANCDF disposal operations begin
- *June 1997 - 2001:* ANCDF construction

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